CHAPTER 92

WATER RATES

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92.01 SERVICE CHARGES. Each customer shall pay for water service provided by the City based upon use of water as determined by meters provided for in Chapter 91. Each location, building, premises or connection shall be considered a separate and distinct customer whether owned or controlled by the same person or not.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.02 DEFINITIONS. The following terms are defined for use in the chapter of this Code of Ordinances pertaining to water rates:

1. "Seasonal unit" means an individual unit within an RV park, mobile home park, or cottage colony; and, City water is not available for more than six (6) months a year due to winterization of the entire complex.

2. "Year-round unit" means an individual unit or multiple units where City water is available more than six (6) months a year, whether winterized or not.

92.03 RATES FOR SERVICE. Each seasonal RV or mobile home, and each dwelling unit within a seasonal cottage colony; and, each year-round dwelling and each dwelling unit within a multi-family unit (duplex, townhome, etc.) within the City limits are considered separate units and each shall pay water service rates as follows.

1. Seasonal Units – Quarterly Rate.

   A. First seasonal unit serviced by water meter – the first 2,500 gallons of water used per quarter at $95.00 (minimum bill). The quarterly minimum shall be billed in advance.

   B. All over 2,500 gallons of water used per quarter at $7.25 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

C. Second and each additional seasonal unit serviced by same water meter – the first 625 gallons of water used per quarter at $23.75 (minimum bill). The quarterly minimum shall be billed in advance.

D. All over 625 gallons of water used per quarter at $7.25 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

2. Seasonal Units – Annual Rate.

A. First seasonal unit serviced by water meter – the first 10,000 gallons of water used per year at $380.00 (minimum bill). The annual minimum shall be billed in advance.

B. All over 10,000 gallons of water used per year at $7.25 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

C. Second and each additional seasonal unit serviced by same water meter – the first 2,500 gallons of water used per year at $95.00 (minimum bill). The annual minimum shall be billed in advance.

D. All over 2,500 gallons of water used per year at 7.25 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

3. Year-Round Units – Quarterly Rate.

A. First year-round unit serviced by water meter – the first 2,500 gallons of water used per quarter at $95.00 (minimum bill). The quarterly minimum shall be billed in advance.

B. All over 2,500 gallons of water used per quarter at $7.25 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

C. Second and each additional year-round unit serviced by same water meter – the first 2,500 gallons of water used per year at $95.00 (minimum bill). The quarterly minimum shall be billed in advance.

D. All over 2,500 gallons of water used per quarter at $7.25 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

4. Year-Round Units – Annual Rate.

A. First year-round unit serviced by water meter – the first 10,000 gallons of water used per year at $380.00 (minimum bill). The annual minimum shall be billed in advance.

B. All over 10,000 gallons of water used per year at $7.25 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

C. Second and each additional year-round unit serviced by same water meter – the first 10,000 gallons of water used per year at $380.00 (minimum bill). The annual minimum shall be billed in advance.

D. All over 10,000 gallons of water used per year at $7.25 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

(Section 92.03 – Ord. 2025-02 – Apr. 25 Supp.)

92.04 RATES FOR SERVICE OUTSIDE THE CITY. Water service shall be provided to customers located outside the corporate limits of the City, which the City has previously agreed to serve, at the following rates:

1. Seasonal Units – Quarterly Rate.

A. First seasonal unit serviced by water meter – the first 2,500 gallons of water used per quarter at $140.00 (minimum bill). The quarterly minimum shall be billed in advance.

B. All over 2,500 gallons of water used per quarter at $9.30 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

C. Second and each additional seasonal unit serviced by same water meter – the first 625 gallons of water used per quarter at $35.00 (minimum bill). The quarterly minimum shall be billed in advance.

D. All over 625 gallons of water used per quarter at $9.30 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

2. Year-Round Units – Quarterly Rate.

A. First year-round unit serviced by water meter – the first 2,500 gallons of water used per quarter at $140.00 (minimum bill). The quarterly minimum shall be billed in advance.

B. All over 2,500 gallons of water used per quarter at $9.30 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

C. Second and each additional year-round unit serviced by same water meter – the first 10,000 gallons of water used per year at $140.00 (minimum bill). The annual minimum shall be billed in advance.

D. All over 2,500 gallons of water used per year at $9.30 per 1,000 gallons. Gallons of overage shall be billed in arrears.

(Section 92.04 – Ord. 2025-02 – Apr. 25 Supp.)

92.05 BILLING FOR WATER SERVICE. Water service shall be billed as part of a combined service account, payable in accordance with the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. Quarterly Billing.

A. Meters Read. Water meters shall be read during the last month of each of the quarters consisting of the following months:

First Quarter – January, February and March;

Second Quarter – April, May and June

Third Quarter – July, August and September

Fourth Quarter – October, November and December.

B. Bills Issued. The Utility Clerk shall prepare and issue bills for combined service accounts on or before the first day of the month following each quarter.

C. Bills Payable. Bills for combined service accounts shall be due and payable at the office of the Utility Clerk within twenty (20) days from the date of issue.

D. Late Payment Fee. When payment is not received on or before the due date, there shall be a late fee of five percent (5%) added to the account. ***(Ord. 2025-02 – Apr. 25. Supp.)***

2. Yearly Billing.

A. Bills Issued. The Utility Clerk shall prepare and issue yearly bills for combined service accounts on or before July 1 of each year.

B. Bills Payable. Yearly bills for combined service accounts shall be due and payable at the office of the Utility Clerk within twenty (20) days from the date of issue.

C. Late Payment Fee. When payment is not received on or before the due date, there shall be a late fee of five percent (5%) added to the account. ***(Ord. 2025-02 – Apr. 25. Supp.)***

92.06 SERVICE DISCONTINUED. Water service to delinquent customers shall be discontinued in accordance with the following:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

1. Notice. The Utility Clerk shall notify each delinquent customer that service will be discontinued if payment of the combined service account is not received by the date specified in the notice of delinquency.

Such notice shall be sent by ordinary mail and shall inform the customer of the nature of the delinquency and afford the customer the opportunity for a hearing prior to the discontinuance.

2. Notice to Landlords. If the customer is a tenant, the notice of delinquency shall also be sent to the owner or landlord.

3. Hearing. If a hearing is requested by noon of the day preceding the shut off, the Utility Clerk shall conduct an informal hearing and shall make a determination as to whether the disconnection is justified. If the Utility Clerk finds that disconnection is justified, then such disconnection shall be made, unless payment has been received.

4. Fees. A fee of fifty dollars ($50.00) shall be charged before service is restored to a delinquent customer. (This constitutes a reconnect fee of $25.00 and a $25.00 administrative fee.) No fee shall be charged for the usual or customary trips in the regular changes in occupancies of property.

5. The minimum service charge shall accrue to a delinquent customer even though the service has been discontinued.

92.07 LIEN FOR NONPAYMENT. The owner of the premises served and any lessee or tenant thereof shall be jointly and severally liable for water service charges to the premises. Water service charges remaining unpaid and delinquent shall constitute a lien upon the premises served and shall be certified by the City Administrator to the County Treasurer for collection in the same manner as property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.08 LIEN EXEMPTION. The lien for nonpayment shall not apply to a residential rental property where water service is separately metered and the rates or charges for the water service are paid directly to the City by the tenant, if the landlord gives written notice to the City that the property is residential rental property and that the tenant is liable for the rates or charges. The City may require a deposit not exceeding the usual cost of ninety (90) days of water service be paid to the City. The landlord's written notice shall contain the name of the tenant responsible for charges, the address of the rental property and the date of occupancy. A change in tenant shall require a new written notice to be given to the City within ten (10) business days of the change in tenant. When the tenant moves from the rental property, the City shall refund the deposit if the water service charges are paid in full. A change in the ownership of the residential rental property shall require written notice of such change to be given to the City within ten (10) business days of the completion of the change

of ownership. The lien exemption does not apply to delinquent charges for repairs to a water service.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.09 LIEN NOTICE. A lien for delinquent water service charges shall not be certified to the County Treasurer unless prior written notice of intent to certify a lien is given to the customer. If the customer is a tenant and if the owner or landlord of the property has made a written request for notice, the notice shall also be given to the owner or landlord. The notice shall be sent to the appropriate persons by ordinary mail not less than thirty (30) days prior to certification of the lien to the County Treasurer.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)

92.10 CUSTOMER DEPOSITS. There shall be required from every customer not the owner of the premises served a deposit intended to guarantee the payment of bills for service in accordance with the following:

1. Residential Customers – $150.00.

2. Commercial Customers – an amount equal to the highest quarterly billing from the previous year or, in the case of a new business with no previous usage, $150.00.

92.11 UNOCCUPIED STRUCTURES. Legal title-holders of any unoccupied structure, regardless of length of time unoccupied, shall be liable for the minimum service charge. In the event the owner of the structure is deceased, the minimum service charge shall accrue to the estate. An optional discontinuation in billing can be obtained by applying to the City Administrator in writing. A discontinuation in billing will result in no further billing or service until a request is received to resume the same. A fee of $550.00 shall be charged at the time service is discontinued.

92.12 CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OR RENTAL. The owner or previous owner of property shall be responsible for notifying the City of any change of ownership, renter or lessee of the property to insure the correct name and address of all billings. Water charges shall accrue to the owner of the property, as shown in the Utility Clerk's records, unless so notified.

(Chapter 92 – Ord. 2023-06 – Jul. 23 Supp.)